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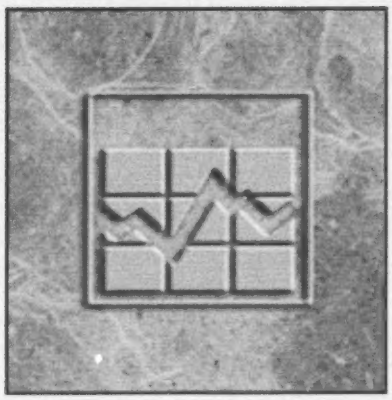

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. not available for any reference period
.. not available for a specific reference period
... not applicable
0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Contents

Abstract 4
Introduction 5
Low income cut-offs 5
What are the LICOs? 5
How are LICOs calculated? 6
Rebasing and indexing the LICOs 7
Use of after-tax and before-tax LICOs 7
Differences in after-tax and before-tax rates 8
Low income measures 8
What is the LIM? 8
How is the LIM calculated? 8
Market Basket Measure (2011 base) 8
What is the MBM? 8
How are MBM thresholds calculated? 11
Low income rate and low income gap ratio 11
Tables 12
Table 1 - Low income cut-offs (1992 base) after tax 12
Table 2 - Low income cut-offs (1992 base) before tax 17
Table 3a - Low income measures by income concept, for household size of four persons 1976-2011 22
Table 3b - Low income measures by income concept, for household size of four persons 2012-2013 23
Table 4 - Market Basket Measure thresholds (2011-base) for reference family of two adults and two children, by MBM region 23
Annex: Historical low income cut-offs (LICOs) for the base years 1959 (for 1969), 1969, 1978, and 1986 25
Table A.1 - Low- income cut-offs (LICOs), 1959 base, before tax 25
Table A.2 - Low- income cut-offs (LICOs), 1969 base, before tax 25
Table A.3 - Low- income cut-offs (LICOs), 1978 base, before tax 26
Table A.4 - Low-income cut-offs (LICOs), 1986 base, before tax 26
Table A.5 - Low-income cut-offs (LICOs), 1986 base, after tax 27
Annual consumer price index (CPI) for Canada, all items (2002=100) 27
References 28

Abstract

In order to provide a holographic or complete picture of low income, Statistics Canada implements an approach that uses three complementary low income lines: the Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs), the Low Income Measures (LIMs) and the Market Basket Measure (MBM). While the first two lines were developed by Statistics Canada, the MBM is based on concepts developed by Employment and Social Development Canada. Though these measures differ from one another, they give a generally consistent picture of low income status over time. None of these measures is the best. Each contributes its own perspective and its own strengths to the study of low income, so that cumulatively, the three provide a better understanding of the phenomenon of low income as a whole. These measures are not measures of poverty, but strictly measures of low income.

The LICOs are based on the relationship between the incomes and the consumption patterns of Canadian households as observed in 1992. The LICOs have been very widely used in Canada since the 1970s. On the other hand, the LIM is based solely on the distribution of household income across the Canadian population and is intended as a reference for international comparisons. Statistics Canada has been producing the LIMs since 1991 and they are aligned with the latest international standard. Finally, the MBM defines low income in relation to the cost of a predefined set of goods and services. The price of this "basket" of goods and services takes regional differences in the cost of living into account.

This publication incorporates a detailed description of the methods used to arrive at each of these measurements. It also explains how base years are defined and how LICOs are updated using the Consumer Price Index. Because the LICOs only depend on the annual Consumer Price Index, they can be produced as soon as the CPI is available (January following the reference year). The LIMs and the MBM depend on other survey products that are available much later. Consequently, they can only be produced about 18 months after the end of the reference year. For these reasons, this report contains LICOs up to 2014, but LIMs and MBM up to 2013 only.

Introduction

Statistics Canada has a long history of publishing data on the low income of Canadians. The low income cut-offs (LICOs) were first published in 1967 as part of the 1961 Census monograph series and are by far Statistics Canada's most established and widely recognized approach to estimating low income cut-offs. LICOs are income thresholds below which families devote a larger share of income to the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than the average family would.

Following the practice of many international organizations, Statistics Canada began to publish before- and after-tax low income measures (LIMs) in 1991. LIMs are particularly convenient for making international comparisons, since estimating the cut-offs requires only data on household incomes within a country. As such, they require no adjustments using exchange rates or purchasing power parity indexes as would be necessary to make meaningful comparisons of absolute levels of income between countries.

The Market Basket Measure (MBM) was developed by Employment and Social Development Canada[1] (ESDC) to represent a standard of living that is a compromise between subsistence and social inclusion that reflects differences in living costs across the country (Hatfield, Pyper and Gustajtis 2010). The thresholds are produced for a reference family of two adults and two children for all sizes of area of residence in each province and for several cities. While ESDC is responsible for defining the components of the basket and the related concepts, Statistics Canada is responsible for the costing of the components and producing low income statistics.

Media, researchers and policy-makers interested in measures of low income are typically concerned with the extent to which individuals in the population are living in poverty. Unfortunately, defining poverty is far from straightforward. The underlying difficulty is that poverty is a question of social consensus, defined for a given point in time and in the context of a given country. Decisions on what defines poverty are subjective and ultimately arbitrary (Statistics Canada, 1999 and Skuterud et al., 2004). Given this, Statistics Canada has always referred to the low income lines as indicators of the extent to which some Canadians are less well-off than others, based solely on income and, as such, are low income and not poverty measures.

Other statistical organizations are also sensitive to the use of the word 'poverty'. Eurostat refers to its measure (similar to the LIM) as an 'at risk of poverty' measure. In the United States, where an official poverty measure exists, the poverty rates are qualified as being calculated according to a specified definition, allowing that other measures are possible.

The purpose of this document is to provide the dollar cut-offs used to define the low income population. Low income status can be determined using family or household income. The family concept used is the economic family, that is, all persons living in the same dwelling and related by blood, marriage, common-law relationship or adoption. A household is defined as a person or group of persons residing in a dwelling.

Low income cut-offs

What are the LICOs?

The low income cut-offs (LICOs) are income thresholds below which a family will likely devote a larger share of its income on the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than the average family. The approach is essentially to estimate an income threshold at which families are expected to spend 20 percentage points more than the average family on food, shelter and clothing.[2] The first set of published LICOs used the 1959 Family Expenditure Survey to estimate five different cut-offs varying between families of size one to five.

Today, Statistics Canada continues to use precisely this approach to construct LICOs, with the exception that cut-offs now vary by 7 family sizes and 5 different populations of the area of residence.[3] This additional variability is intended to capture differences in the cost of living amongst community sizes. [4]

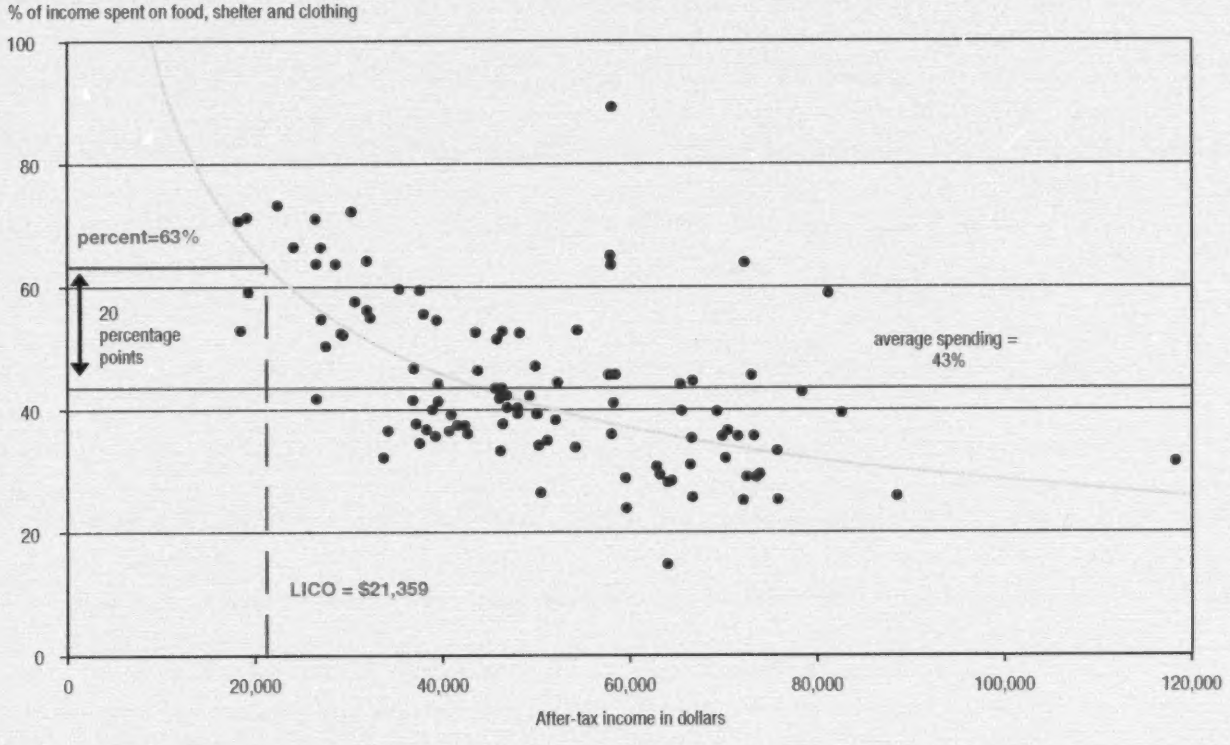
1. Formerly, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.
2. Twenty percentage points are used based on the rationale that a family spending 20 percentage points more than the average would be in "straitened circumstances".
3. As of the Low Income Lines 2009-2010 release, a new naming convention for the geographic classification was introduced for the LICOS grouping them by five community sizes according to Rural areas outside of Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and Census Agglomerations (CAs), and size of CMAs and CAs. The MBM uses these same sizes on a provincial level in addition to several CMAs and CAs. Please refer to Tables A and B of the Low Income Lines 2009-2010 release (Statistics Canada, 2011b).
4. The LICOs were revised in early 2005 to incorporate revised weights from the 1992 Family Expenditure Survey, which were part of the 2003 Survey of Household Spending historical revision

How are LICOs calculated?

As mentioned previously, a LICO is an income threshold below which a family will likely devote a larger share of its income to the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than an average family would. According to the most recent base for LICOs, the 1992 Family Expenditures Survey, the average family spent 43% of its after-tax income on food, shelter and clothing. Figure 1 shows the calculation of a LICO using the example of a family of four living in a community with a population between 30,000 and 99,999. The 63% line represents the average proportion of after-tax income that all families (regardless of size) spent on food, shelter and clothing in 1992 (i.e. 43%) plus the 20 percentage point margin. The dots on the chart show the actual observed proportion of income spent by four-person families in that community size on necessities, according to the 1992 Family Expenditure Survey. A regression line is fitted to this distribution and the intersection of that curve and the 63% line gives the LICO—in this case, $21,359.[5 6 7]

This process is carried out for seven family sizes and five community sizes and results in a table of 35 cut-offs. This operation is done twice: once for before-tax cut-offs, once for after-tax cut-offs.

Figure 1
Calculation of an after-tax LICO



Source: Survey of Family Expenditures (Famex), 1992.

5. The model is the following: the logarithm of spending on food, shelter and clothing is a function of the logarithm of income, family size, population of the area of residence and region.
6. It can clearly be seen that as income increases, the proportion spent on food, shelter and clothing decreases. In this case, points to the left of the intersection point between the regression curve and 63% line represent situations where more than 63% of after-tax income is spent on necessities.
7. All dollar values are expressed in current dollars.

Rebasing and indexing the LICOs

Over time, Canadian families have spent a smaller percentage of their income on the necessities of food, shelter and clothing. This relationship between families' income and spending is associated with a specific point in time, i.e. the year of the expenditure survey used to derive the cut-offs. That particular year is referred to as the base year for the set of cut-offs. In order to account for changing spending patterns, Statistics Canada has in the past recalculated new LICOs after each subsequent Family Expenditure Survey. This process is referred to as rebasing and includes recalculating new LICOs using the method described in "How are low income cut-offs calculated?" and the new spending data. In addition to the 1992 base, LICOs have also been based on the 1986, 1978, 1969 and 1959 Family Expenditure Surveys; although cut-offs based on 1992 are the most commonly used and are available for the income reference years from 1976 onwards.[8]

After having calculated LICOs in the base year, cut-offs for other years are obtained by applying the corresponding Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate to the cut-offs from the base year – the process of indexing the LICOs. The CPI are provided at the end of this document. For example, continuing with the 1992 after-tax LICO for a family of four living in a community with a population between 30,000 and 99,999; to calculate the corresponding LICO for 2014, the Consumer Price Index is used as follows:

$$LICO_{2014} = LICO_{1992} \times CPI_{2014} / CPI_{1992} = 21{,}359 \times 125.2 / 84.0 = 31{,}835$$

Thus for 2014, the 1992 based after-tax LICO for a family of four living in a community with a population between 30,000 and 99,999 is $31,835, expressed in current dollars.

Because the LICOs only depend on the annual Consumer Price Index, they can be produced as soon as the CPI is available, that is January following the reference year.

Note that using the CPI to update the cut-offs takes inflation into account, but does not reflect any changes that might occur over time in the average spending on necessities.

Use of after-tax and before-tax LICOs

The average proportion of income that families spend on food, shelter and clothing, which figures prominently in the low income cut-offs, is undoubtedly a useful gauge of economic well-being no matter which income concept is used. The choice of after-tax income, total income or market income depends on whether one wants to take into account the added spending power that a family gets from receiving government transfers or its reduced spending power after paying taxes.

Statistics Canada produces two sets of low income cut-offs and their corresponding rates—those based on total income (i.e., income including government transfers, before the deduction of income taxes) and those based on after-tax income. Derivation of before-tax versus after-tax low income cut-offs are each done independently. There is no simple relationship, such as the average amount of taxes payable, to distinguish the two types of cut-offs.

Although both sets of low income cut-offs and rates continue to be available, Statistics Canada prefers the use of the after-tax measure.

The choice to highlight after-tax rates was made for two main reasons. First, income taxes and transfers are essentially two methods of income redistribution. The before-tax rates only partly reflect the entire redistributive impact of Canada's tax/transfer system because they include the effect of transfers but not the effect of income taxes. Second, since the purchase of necessities is made with after-tax dollars, it is logical to use people's after-tax income to draw conclusions about their overall economic well-being.

8. In 1997, the Family Expenditure Survey was replaced by the Survey of Household Spending, an annual survey. Therefore, theoretically new rebased LICOs could be produced annually (see Cotton, Webber, Saint-Pierre (1999) for more details).

Differences in after-tax and before-tax rates

The number of people falling below the cut-offs has been consistently lower on an after-tax basis than on a before-tax basis. This result may appear inconsistent at first glance, since incomes after tax cannot be any higher than they are before tax, considering that all transfers, including refundable tax credits, are included in the definition of "before-tax" total income. However, with a relative measure of low income such as the LICO, this result is to be expected with any income tax system which, by and large, taxes those with more income at a higher rate than those with less. These "progressive" tax rates compress the distribution of income. Therefore, some families in low income before taking taxes into account are relatively better off and not in low income on an after-tax basis.

Low income measures

What is the LIM?

For the purpose of making international comparisons, the LIM is the most commonly used low income measure. In simple terms, the LIM is a fixed percentage (50%) of median adjusted household[9] income, where "adjusted" indicates that household needs are taken into account. Adjustment for household sizes reflects the fact that a household's needs increase as the number of members increases. Most would agree that a household of six has greater needs than a household of two, although these needs are not necessarily three times as costly.

The LIMs are calculated three times for each year; with market income, before-tax income, and after-tax income drawn from an annual survey of household income.[10] Because a new set of LIMs is calculated each year using new data, they do not require updating using an inflation index. Unlike the low income cut-offs, which are derived from an expenditure survey and then compared to an income survey, the LIMs are both derived and applied using a single income survey.

How is the LIM calculated?

In order to calculate the LIMs [11], first calculate "equivalent household income" for each household by dividing household income by its "adjusted size", that is the square root of the number of persons in the household. Next, assign this adjusted household income to each individual in the household. Then, determine the median of this "equivalent household income" over the population of individuals; that is, the amount where half of all individuals will be above it and half below. The LIM for a household of one person is 50% of this median "equivalent household income", and the LIMs for other sizes of households are equal to this value multiplied by their "equivalent household size".

Market Basket Measure (2011 base)

What is the MBM?

The MBM is a measure of low income based on the cost of a specific basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living. It includes the costs of food, clothing, footwear, transportation, shelter and other expenses for a reference family of two adults aged 25-49 and two children (aged 9 and 13). It provides thresholds for a finer geographic level than the LICO, allowing, for example, different costs for rural areas in the different provinces. These thresholds are compared to disposable income of families to determine low income status.

9. A household is defined as a person or group of persons residing in a dwelling.
10. Starting with reference year 1998, the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) replaced the annual SCF as the major source of information on family income. Over the 1993 to 1997 period, the two surveys were run in parallel: estimates for this period are produced by combining both samples. Starting with the 2012 reference year, annual individual and family income data is produced by the Canadian Income Survey (CIS).
11. The methodology utilized for calculating the LIMs changed substantially beginning with the release of "Low Income Lines, 2008-2009" and the 2008 SLID. These changes relate to the accounting unit utilized, the unit of analysis and the equivalence scale. For a complete description of the changes, please see "Low Income Lines, 2008-2009".

Table A
Market Basket Measure 'mortgage-free owners' difference in expenditures', which is added to their disposable income, for reference family of two adults and two children[1], by MBM region

MBM Region[2]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	Current dollars											
Newfoundland and Labrador												
Rural	3,102	3,131	3,066	3,032	2,956	2,915	2,716	2,710	2,920	3,034	3,180	3,253
Less than 30,000	3,045	3,042	2,947	2,877	2,766	2,702	2,452	2,421	2,637	2,741	2,887	2,953
St. John's	3,177	3,221	3,174	3,143	3,072	2,976	2,658	2,601	2,847	2,959	3,129	3,201
Prince Edward Island												
Rural	3,186	3,191	3,062	2,979	2,991	2,997	2,936	3,113	3,330	3,399	3,476	3,495
Less than 30,000	3,104	3,086	2,923	2,798	2,783	2,774	2,694	2,884	3,130	3,209	3,296	3,305
Charlottetown	3,552	3,535	3,368	3,236	3,235	3,227	3,140	3,348	3,613	3,700	3,797	3,810
Nova Scotia												
Rural	3,628	3,725	3,738	3,814	3,812	3,751	3,624	3,672	3,780	3,804	3,853	3,853
Less than 30,000	3,166	3,171	3,089	3,076	2,971	2,869	2,689	2,719	2,818	2,825	2,856	2,831
30,000 - 99,999	3,780	3,844	3,819	3,863	3,825	3,751	3,608	3,653	3,762	3,785	3,831	3,825
Halifax	4,376	4,459	4,451	4,511	4,471	4,355	4,160	4,204	4,327	4,350	4,400	4,386
Cape Breton	3,190	3,202	3,127	3,121	3,024	2,926	2,751	2,783	2,882	2,891	2,923	2,900
New Brunswick												
Rural	3,018	3,085	3,057	3,071	3,045	3,056	3,028	3,052	3,140	3,216	3,265	3,300
Less than 30,000	2,800	2,843	2,784	2,693	2,757	2,756	2,710	2,719	2,812	2,892	2,944	2,979
30,000 - 99,999				2,511	2,571	2,574	2,532	2,544	2,631	2,705	2,754	2,785
Fredericton	4,570	4,718	4,757	4,831	4,858	4,866	4,835	4,865	4,989	5,100	5,177	5,234
Saint John	2,785	2,848	2,807	2,799	2,744	2,735	2,681	2,684	2,781	2,865	2,921	2,957
Moncton	3,702	3,783	3,755	3,758	3,717	3,712	3,666	3,677	3,789	3,889	3,957	4,002
Québec												
Rural	2,525	2,507	2,502	2,497	2,511	2,461	2,378	2,371	2,446	2,473	2,480	2,527
Less than 30,000	2,109	2,065	2,040	2,016	2,011	1,940	1,832	1,813	1,889	1,908	1,904	1,946
30,000 - 99,999	2,281	2,309	2,360	2,416	2,495	2,429	2,325	2,311	2,393	2,419	2,422	2,470
100,000 - 499,999	2,456	2,464	2,496	2,530	2,589	2,517	2,406	2,391	2,477	2,503	2,505	2,556
Québec City	2,656	2,713	2,795	2,880	2,991	2,919	2,806	2,792	2,886	2,917	2,923	2,980
Montréal	2,495	2,562	2,662	2,766	2,901	2,810	2,671	2,649	2,751	2,779	2,778	2,836
Ontario												
Rural	4,039	4,080	3,996	3,944	3,881	3,858	3,744	3,774	3,833	3,845	3,883	4,012
Less than 30,000	3,674	3,671	3,537	3,439	3,325	3,291	3,161	3,183	3,234	3,237	3,266	3,390
30,000 - 99,999	3,970	3,960	3,815	3,707	3,582	3,550	3,421	3,445	3,500	3,505	3,537	3,667
100,000 - 499,999	4,435	4,462	4,349	4,271	4,178	4,143	4,007	4,033	4,094	4,102	4,142	4,288
Ottawa	5,442	5,555	5,519	5,513	5,499	5,464	5,319	5,354	5,429	5,447	5,503	5,681
Hamilton/Burlington	4,280	4,303	4,182	4,092	3,991	3,941	3,785	3,805	3,859	3,862	3,896	4,046
Toronto	6,255	6,261	6,106	5,975	5,833	5,789	5,631	5,665	5,742	5,759	5,818	6,008
Manitoba												
Rural	2,450	2,554	2,544	2,581	2,590	2,569	2,500	2,605	2,800	2,804	2,834	2,828
Less than 30,000	3,111	3,198	3,164	3,168	3,151	3,118	3,045	3,166	3,390	3,397	3,435	3,429
Brandon	3,283	3,401	3,397	3,428	3,441	3,409	3,337	3,466	3,702	3,713	3,755	3,752
Winnipeg	3,202	3,403	3,476	3,578	3,667	3,612	3,519	3,655	3,918	3,920	3,960	3,948

Table A (concluded)
Market Basket Measure 'mortgage-free owners' difference in expenditures', which is added to their disposable income, for reference family of two adults and two children[1], by MBM region

MBM Region[2]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	Current dollars											
Saskatchewan												
Rural	2,371	2,386	2,292	2,264	2,203	1,877	1,611	1,914	2,285	2,380	2,502	2,669
Less than 30,000	2,652	2,638	2,509	2,442	2,345	1,951	1,623	1,955	2,369	2,468	2,602	2,790
30,000 - 99,999	2,674	2,681	2,574	2,532	2,461	2,054	1,718	2,062	2,490	2,594	2,734	2,928
Saskatoon	3,206	3,177	3,027	2,934	2,815	2,335	1,942	2,331	2,818	2,934	3,095	3,319
Regina	3,029	3,041	2,934	2,888	2,818	2,342	1,953	2,342	2,826	2,943	3,103	3,326
Alberta												
Rural	3,705	3,921	3,972	4,088	3,880	3,810	4,043	4,317	4,297	4,228	4,287	4,433
Less than 30,000	4,212	4,437	4,487	4,593	4,317	4,213	4,468	4,778	4,746	4,664	4,731	4,894
30,000 - 99,999	5,023	5,260	5,313	5,423	5,182	5,148	5,466	5,798	5,761	5,683	5,764	5,952
Edmonton	4,302	4,574	4,663	4,807	4,527	4,386	4,650	4,983	4,945	4,854	4,923	5,097
Calgary	5,673	5,826	5,778	5,781	5,357	5,256	5,577	5,940	5,895	5,800	5,884	6,082
British Columbia												
Rural	5,191	5,233	5,176	5,135	5,059	5,115	5,188	5,440	5,635	5,734	5,880	6,051
Less than 30,000	4,644	4,667	4,585	4,517	4,410	4,449	4,503	4,771	4,973	5,068	5,225	5,407
30,000 - 99,999	4,935	5,025	5,010	5,007	4,963	5,006	5,070	5,355	5,567	5,672	5,839	6,034
100,000 - 499,999	5,916	6,076	6,128	6,179	6,188	6,237	6,322	6,652	6,897	7,024	7,222	7,453
Vancouver	6,566	6,600	6,520	6,430	6,290	6,328	6,408	6,775	7,040	7,176	7,397	7,655

1 To convert to other family sizes, divide these values by 2 (the square root of the reference family size of four persons) and then multiply by the square root of the desired family size. For example, if the MBM threshold for a given region is $27,500 for the reference family of two adults and two children, to convert this threshold to a three-person family, the following calculation is made: ($27,500 ÷ 2) × (square root of 3) ==> $13,750 × 1.732 ==> $23,816
To convert the threshold to a two-person family, the following calculation is made: ($27,500 ÷ 2) × (square root of 2) ==> $13,750× 1.414 ==> $19,445
To convert the threshold to a single-person family, the following calculation is made: ($27,500 ÷ 2) × (square root of 1) ==> $13,750 × 1 ==> $13,750
2 Rural: rural areas located outside a Census Metropolitan Area or Census Agglomeration. Can include some small population centres.
Less than 30,000: Census Agglomeration or population centres less than 10,000 inhabitants.
30,000 - 99,999: Census Agglomeration between 30,000 - 99,999 inhabitants.
100,000 – 499,999: Census Metropolitan Area between 100,000 – 499,999 inhabitants.
Specific city name refers to the population within the CMA or CA.

Disposable income is defined as the sum remaining after deducting the following from total family income: total income taxes paid; the personal portion of payroll taxes; other mandatory payroll deductions such as contributions to employer-sponsored pension plans, supplementary health plans, and union dues; child support and alimony payments made to another family; out-of-pocket spending on child care; and non-insured but medically prescribed health-related expenses such as dental and vision care, prescription drugs, and aids for persons with disabilities.

The MBM, including its definition of disposable income, was designed by a working group of Federal, Provincial and Territorial officials, led by ESDC between 1997 and 1999 (Hatfield 2002; Michaud, Cotton and Bishop 2004). During 2009 and early 2010, the MBM underwent a comprehensive review of both content and methodology (Hatfield, Pyper and Gustajtis 2010). Though led by ESDC, the consultation process involved officials from Provincial and Territorial governments, other federal departments and agencies including Statistics Canada and a panel of experts in low income measurement. This review process led to a rebased series of thresholds (MBM 2008 base) which was revised historically to 2000, the beginning of the MBM time series. Among the changes to the MBM resulting from the comprehensive review was the revision of the shelter component to include the costs of homeowners without mortgages. This revision recognized that, in a given year, homeowners without mortgages may pay less for shelter than they would if they were renting.

During 2012, ESDC officials re-examined the methodology for including homeowners without mortgages in order to better implement the conceptual decision to reflect these costs in the MBM. Following this re-examination, a

revised methodology was adopted that adjusts the MBM disposable income of homeowners without mortgages to account for the potential differences in their shelter-related expenses. Specifically, the disposable income is adjusted in the following manner:

1. Shelter cost for mortgage-free owners is calculated, based on the median shelter cost for all two- and three- bedroom mortgage-free dwellings in each MBM region. These shelter costs reflect the actual distribution of two- and three-bedroom mortgage-free units in each MBM region.
2. Mortgage-free owners' difference in expenditures is calculated as the difference in the median shelter cost calculated in 1. above and that of renters (i.e. the cost of the shelter component)
3. Disposable income of owners without mortgages is adjusted by adding the mortgage-free owners' difference in expenditures prevailing in their MBM region to their MBM disposable income. Table A provides detailed information of the amounts of these adjustments in each MBM region.

The shelter thresholds themselves are exclusively a reflection of the median costs for all two- and three-bedroom rental units in each MBM region, weighted to take into account the actual distribution of such units. The revision took effect in 2011 and included an historical revision back to 2002 (the first year in which housing tenure information is available in SLID).

How are MBM thresholds calculated?

The MBM thresholds are calculated as the cost of purchasing the following items:

- A nutritious diet as specified in the 2008 National Nutritious Food Basket (Health Canada 2009).
- A basket of clothing and footwear required by a family of two adults and two children.
- Shelter cost as the median cost of two- or three-bedroom rental units including electricity, heat, water and appliances. Shelter cost of mortgage-free owners is no longer reflected in the thresholds, but rather in the disposable income of individual reference families for whom it applies.
- Transportation costs, using public transit where available or costs associated with owning and operating a modest vehicle where public transit is not available.
- Other necessary goods and services.

Low income rate and low income gap ratio

To determine whether a person is in low income, the appropriate low income line (LIL) is compared to the income of the person's family[12] (or household)[13]. If their income is below the LIL, the individual is considered to be in low income. In other words, "persons in low income" should be interpreted as persons who are part of low income families (or households), including persons living alone whose income is below the LIL. Similarly, "children in low income" means "children who are living in low income families (or households)". Overall, the low income rate for persons can then be calculated as the number of persons in low income divided by the total population. The same can be done for various sub-groups of the population; for example, low income rates by age, sex, or province.

After having determined that an individual is in low income, the low income gap ratio can be calculated by using the amount that the person's family (or household) income falls short of the LIL, expressed as a percentage of the LIL[14]. For example, an individual living in a family (or household) with an income of $15,000 and a LIL of $20,000 would have a low income gap of $5,000. In percentage terms, the "gap ratio" would be 25%.[15] The average gap ratio for a given population is the average of these values as calculated for each person.

12. The family concept used is the economic family, that is, all persons living in the same dwelling and related by blood, marriage, common-law relationship or adoption.
13. When using the LICO or the MBM, the economic family is the appropriate unit. When using the LIM, the household is the appropriate unit.
14. See "What you should know" section of the 2009 Income in Canada release for a more detailed explanation (Statistics Canada, 2011a).
15. For the calculation of this low income gap, negative incomes are treated as zero.

Tables

Table 1
Low income cut-offs (1992 base) after tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
1992					
1 person	8,848	10,126	11,296	11,439	13,526
2 persons	10,769	12,325	13,749	13,922	16,462
3 persons	13,410	15,346	17,120	17,336	20,499
4 persons	16,729	19,146	21,359	21,628	25,574
5 persons	19,050	21,802	24,322	24,628	29,121
6 persons	21,127	24,179	26,974	27,313	32,296
7 or more persons	23,204	26,556	29,625	29,998	35,471
1993					
1 person	9,017	10,319	11,511	11,657	13,784
2 persons	10,974	12,560	14,011	14,187	16,776
3 persons	13,665	15,638	17,446	17,666	20,889
4 persons	17,048	19,511	21,766	22,040	26,061
5 persons	19,413	22,217	24,785	25,097	29,676
6 persons	21,529	24,640	27,488	27,833	32,911
7 or more persons	23,646	27,062	30,189	30,569	36,147
1994					
1 person	9,027	10,331	11,525	11,671	13,800
2 persons	10,987	12,574	14,027	14,204	16,795
3 persons	13,681	15,657	17,466	17,687	20,914
4 persons	17,068	19,533	21,791	22,066	26,092
5 persons	19,436	22,243	24,814	25,126	29,710
6 persons	21,555	24,668	27,520	27,866	32,950
7 or more persons	23,674	27,093	30,225	30,605	36,189
1995					
1 person	9,227	10,560	11,780	11,929	14,106
2 persons	11,231	12,853	14,338	14,519	17,168
3 persons	13,985	16,004	17,854	18,079	21,378
4 persons	17,446	19,967	22,274	22,555	26,670
5 persons	19,866	22,736	25,364	25,683	30,369
6 persons	22,032	25,215	28,130	28,484	33,680
7 or more persons	24,198	27,694	30,895	31,284	36,991

Table 1 (continued)
Low income cut-offs (1992 base) after tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
1996					
1 person	9,364	10,717	11,955	12,106	14,315
2 persons	11,397	13,044	14,551	14,734	17,422
3 persons	14,192	16,241	18,119	18,347	21,695
4 persons	17,705	20,263	22,605	22,890	27,066
5 persons	20,161	23,074	25,741	26,065	30,820
6 persons	22,359	25,589	28,547	28,906	34,180
7 or more persons	24,558	28,105	31,353	31,748	37,540
1997					
1 person	9,522	10,898	12,157	12,311	14,557
2 persons	11,589	13,264	14,797	14,983	17,716
3 persons	14,432	16,515	18,424	18,657	22,061
4 persons	18,004	20,605	22,986	23,276	27,522
5 persons	20,501	23,463	26,175	26,504	31,340
6 persons	22,737	26,021	29,029	29,394	34,757
7 or more persons	24,972	28,579	31,882	32,284	38,174
1998					
1 person	9,617	11,006	12,278	12,433	14,701
2 persons	11,705	13,396	14,944	15,132	17,893
3 persons	14,575	16,680	18,608	18,843	22,280
4 persons	18,183	20,810	23,215	23,508	27,797
5 persons	20,706	23,697	26,436	26,768	31,652
6 persons	22,963	26,280	29,318	29,687	35,103
7 or more persons	25,221	28,864	32,200	32,605	38,554
1999					
1 person	9,785	11,195	12,493	12,651	14,959
2 persons	11,910	13,631	15,206	15,397	18,206
3 persons	14,831	16,972	18,934	19,173	22,671
4 persons	18,501	21,175	23,622	23,920	28,284
5 persons	21,068	24,112	26,899	27,237	32,206
6 persons	23,365	26,741	29,832	30,207	35,718
7 or more persons	25,663	29,370	32,764	33,176	39,229
2000					
1 person	10,049	11,500	12,829	12,991	15,362
2 persons	12,231	13,998	15,615	15,811	18,696
3 persons	15,230	17,429	19,443	19,689	23,281
4 persons	18,999	21,744	24,258	24,563	29,045
5 persons	21,635	24,761	27,623	27,970	33,073
6 persons	23,994	27,460	30,635	31,020	36,679
7 or more persons	26,353	30,160	33,646	34,069	40,285

Table 1 (continued)
Low income cut-offs (1992 base) after tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
2001					
1 person	10,302	11,790	13,152	13,318	15,748
2 persons	12,538	14,350	16,008	16,209	19,166
3 persons	15,613	17,867	19,933	20,184	23,867
4 persons	19,477	22,291	24,868	25,181	29,775
5 persons	22,180	25,384	28,318	28,674	33,905
6 persons	24,598	28,151	31,405	31,800	37,602
7 or more persons	27,016	30,919	34,492	34,926	41,298
2002					
1 person	10,533	12,055	13,448	13,618	16,102
2 persons	12,820	14,673	16,368	16,574	19,598
3 persons	15,964	18,269	20,381	20,638	24,404
4 persons	19,915	22,793	25,427	25,748	30,445
5 persons	22,679	25,955	28,955	29,319	34,668
6 persons	25,151	28,785	32,112	32,515	38,448
7 or more persons	27,624	31,614	35,268	35,712	42,227
2003					
1 person	10,828	12,392	13,824	13,999	16,553
2 persons	13,179	15,083	16,826	17,038	20,146
3 persons	16,411	18,781	20,952	21,216	25,087
4 persons	20,473	23,431	26,139	26,469	31,298
5 persons	23,314	26,681	29,765	30,140	35,639
6 persons	25,855	29,590	33,011	33,426	39,524
7 or more persons	28,397	32,499	36,255	36,712	43,410
2004					
1 person	11,028	12,621	14,080	14,258	16,859
2 persons	13,423	15,362	17,137	17,353	20,519
3 persons	16,715	19,128	21,339	21,608	25,551
4 persons	20,852	23,864	26,622	26,958	31,876
5 persons	23,744	27,175	30,316	30,697	36,297
6 persons	26,333	30,137	33,621	34,044	40,255
7 or more persons	28,922	33,100	36,925	37,390	44,212
2005					
1 person	11,271	12,899	14,389	14,571	17,230
2 persons	13,718	15,700	17,514	17,734	20,969
3 persons	17,082	19,548	21,808	22,083	26,112
4 persons	21,310	24,388	27,207	27,550	32,576
5 persons	24,266	27,772	30,982	31,371	37,095
6 persons	26,912	30,799	34,360	34,792	41,139
7 or more persons	29,557	33,827	37,737	38,212	45,183

Table 1 (continued)
Low income cut-offs (1992 base) after tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
2006					
1 person	11,492	13,152	14,671	14,857	17,568
2 persons	13,987	16,008	17,857	18,082	21,381
3 persons	17,417	19,932	22,236	22,516	26,624
4 persons	21,728	24,867	27,741	28,091	33,216
5 persons	24,742	28,317	31,590	31,987	37,823
6 persons	27,440	31,404	35,034	35,474	41,946
7 or more persons	30,138	34,491	38,477	38,962	46,070
2007					
1 person	11,745	13,441	14,994	15,184	17,954
2 persons	14,295	16,360	18,250	18,480	21,851
3 persons	17,800	20,370	22,725	23,011	27,210
4 persons	22,206	25,414	28,352	28,709	33,946
5 persons	25,287	28,940	32,285	32,691	38,655
6 persons	28,044	32,095	35,805	36,255	42,869
7 or more persons	30,801	35,250	39,324	39,819	47,084
2008					
1 person	12,019	13,754	15,344	15,538	18,373
2 persons	14,628	16,741	18,676	18,911	22,361
3 persons	18,215	20,845	23,255	23,548	27,844
4 persons	22,724	26,007	29,013	29,378	34,738
5 persons	25,876	29,614	33,037	33,453	39,556
6 persons	28,698	32,843	36,640	37,100	43,869
7 or more persons	31,519	36,072	40,241	40,747	48,181
2009					
1 person	12,050	13,791	15,384	15,579	18,421
2 persons	14,666	16,785	18,725	18,960	22,420
3 persons	18,263	20,900	23,316	23,610	27,918
4 persons	22,783	26,075	29,089	29,455	34,829
5 persons	25,944	29,692	33,124	33,541	39,660
6 persons	28,773	32,929	36,736	37,198	43,984
7 or more persons	31,602	36,167	40,346	40,854	48,308
2010					
1 person	12,271	14,044	15,666	15,865	18,759
2 persons	14,936	17,094	19,069	19,308	22,831
3 persons	18,598	21,283	23,744	24,043	28,430
4 persons	23,202	26,554	29,623	29,996	35,469
5 persons	26,421	30,237	33,732	34,157	40,388
6 persons	29,301	33,534	37,410	37,881	44,791
7 or more persons	32,182	36,831	41,087	41,604	49,195

Table 1 (concluded)
Low income cut-offs (1992 base) after tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
2011					
1 person	12,629	14,454	16,124	16,328	19,307
2 persons	15,371	17,592	19,625	19,872	23,498
3 persons	19,141	21,905	24,437	24,745	29,260
4 persons	23,879	27,329	30,487	30,871	36,504
5 persons	27,192	31,120	34,717	35,154	41,567
6 persons	30,156	34,513	38,502	38,986	46,099
7 or more persons	33,121	37,906	42,286	42,819	50,631
2012					
1 person	12,819	14,671	16,366	16,573	19,597
2 persons	15,602	17,857	19,920	20,170	23,850
3 persons	19,429	22,233	24,804	25,117	29,699
4 persons	24,237	27,739	30,945	31,335	37,052
5 persons	27,600	31,587	35,238	35,681	42,191
6 persons	30,609	35,031	39,080	39,571	46,791
7 or more persons	33,618	38,475	42,921	43,461	51,391
2013					
1 person	12,935	14,803	16,514	16,723	19,774
2 persons	15,743	18,018	20,100	20,353	24,066
3 persons	19,604	22,434	25,028	25,344	29,968
4 persons	24,456	27,990	31,225	31,618	37,387
5 persons	27,849	31,872	35,556	36,004	42,572
6 persons	30,886	35,347	39,433	39,929	47,214
7 or more persons	33,922	38,822	43,309	43,854	51,855
2014					
1 person	13,188	15,093	16,836	17,050	20,160
2 persons	16,051	18,370	20,493	20,750	24,536
3 persons	19,987	22,873	25,517	25,839	30,553
4 persons	24,934	28,537	31,835	32,236	38,117
5 persons	28,394	32,495	36,251	36,707	43,404
6 persons	31,489	36,038	40,204	40,709	48,136
7 or more persons	34,585	39,581	44,155	44,711	52,869

1 Can include some small population centres.
2 Includes population centres with less than 10,000 inhabitants.

Table 2
Low income cut-offs (1992 base) before tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
1992					
1 person	11,236	12,783	13,970	14,057	16,322
2 persons	13,988	15,913	17,391	17,499	20,320
3 persons	17,196	19,563	21,380	21,513	24,981
4 persons	20,879	23,753	25,959	26,120	30,330
5 persons	23,680	26,940	29,442	29,624	34,400
6 persons	26,708	30,384	33,206	33,412	38,797
7 or more persons	29,735	33,828	36,970	37,199	43,195
1993					
1 person	11,450	13,026	14,236	14,325	16,633
2 persons	14,254	16,216	17,722	17,832	20,707
3 persons	17,524	19,936	21,787	21,923	25,457
4 persons	21,277	24,205	26,453	26,618	30,908
5 persons	24,131	27,453	30,003	30,188	35,055
6 persons	27,217	30,963	33,838	34,048	39,536
7 or more persons	30,301	34,472	37,674	37,908	44,018
1994					
1 person	11,463	13,042	14,253	14,341	16,652
2 persons	14,271	16,235	17,743	17,853	20,731
3 persons	17,544	19,959	21,813	21,948	25,487
4 persons	21,302	24,234	26,484	26,649	30,944
5 persons	24,159	27,485	30,038	30,224	35,096
6 persons	27,249	30,999	33,878	34,088	39,582
7 or more persons	30,337	34,513	37,718	37,952	44,069
1995					
1 person	11,718	13,331	14,569	14,659	17,022
2 persons	14,587	16,595	18,136	18,249	21,191
3 persons	17,933	20,401	22,296	22,435	26,052
4 persons	21,774	24,771	27,072	27,239	31,630
5 persons	24,695	28,095	30,704	30,894	35,874
6 persons	27,853	31,686	34,629	34,844	40,460
7 or more persons	31,009	35,278	38,554	38,793	45,046
1996					
1 person	11,891	13,529	14,785	14,877	17,274
2 persons	14,804	16,841	18,405	18,520	21,505
3 persons	18,199	20,704	22,627	22,768	26,438
4 persons	22,097	25,139	27,473	27,644	32,099
5 persons	25,061	28,512	31,159	31,352	36,407
6 persons	28,266	32,156	35,143	35,361	41,060
7 or more persons	31,470	35,801	39,127	39,369	45,715

Table 2 (continued)
Low income cut-offs (1992 base) before tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
1997					
1 person	12,092	13,757	15,034	15,128	17,566
2 persons	15,054	17,125	18,716	18,832	21,868
3 persons	18,506	21,054	23,009	23,152	26,884
4 persons	22,470	25,563	27,937	28,110	32,641
5 persons	25,484	28,993	31,685	31,881	37,021
6 persons	28,743	32,699	35,736	35,958	41,753
7 or more persons	32,001	36,405	39,787	40,033	46,486
1998					
1 person	12,212	13,894	15,184	15,279	17,740
2 persons	15,204	17,296	18,902	19,020	22,086
3 persons	18,690	21,263	23,238	23,383	27,152
4 persons	22,693	25,817	28,215	28,390	32,966
5 persons	25,738	29,281	32,001	32,198	37,390
6 persons	29,029	33,025	36,092	36,316	42,169
7 or more persons	32,319	36,768	40,183	40,432	46,949
1999					
1 person	12,426	14,137	15,450	15,546	18,051
2 persons	15,470	17,599	19,234	19,353	22,473
3 persons	19,018	21,636	23,645	23,792	27,628
4 persons	23,091	26,270	28,709	28,887	33,544
5 persons	26,189	29,794	32,561	32,763	38,045
6 persons	29,538	33,603	36,724	36,952	42,908
7 or more persons	32,885	37,412	40,887	41,140	47,772
2000					
1 person	12,761	14,518	15,866	15,965	18,537
2 persons	15,886	18,073	19,751	19,874	23,078
3 persons	19,530	22,218	24,282	24,433	28,371
4 persons	23,713	26,977	29,482	29,665	34,446
5 persons	26,894	30,596	33,438	33,644	39,069
6 persons	30,333	34,508	37,713	37,946	44,062
7 or more persons	33,770	38,419	41,987	42,247	49,057
2001					
1 person	13,082	14,883	16,265	16,366	19,003
2 persons	16,286	18,527	20,248	20,374	23,658
3 persons	20,021	22,777	24,892	25,047	29,085
4 persons	24,309	27,655	30,224	30,411	35,313
5 persons	27,570	31,366	34,279	34,491	40,051
6 persons	31,096	35,376	38,661	38,901	45,171
7 or more persons	34,620	39,385	43,044	43,310	50,291

Table 2 (continued)
Low income cut-offs (1992 base) before tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
2002					
1 person	13,376	15,218	16,631	16,735	19,431
2 persons	16,652	18,944	20,704	20,832	24,190
3 persons	20,471	23,289	25,452	25,611	29,739
4 persons	24,856	28,277	30,904	31,095	36,107
5 persons	28,190	32,071	35,050	35,267	40,952
6 persons	31,795	36,171	39,531	39,776	46,187
7 or more persons	35,399	40,271	44,012	44,285	51,423
2003					
1 person	13,751	15,644	17,097	17,203	19,975
2 persons	17,119	19,474	21,283	21,415	24,868
3 persons	21,045	23,941	26,165	26,328	30,572
4 persons	25,552	29,069	31,769	31,966	37,118
5 persons	28,980	32,969	36,031	36,254	42,099
6 persons	32,686	37,184	40,638	40,890	47,480
7 or more persons	36,390	41,399	45,244	45,524	52,862
2004					
1 person	14,005	15,933	17,413	17,521	20,344
2 persons	17,435	19,834	21,677	21,811	25,327
3 persons	21,434	24,384	26,649	26,814	31,137
4 persons	26,024	29,606	32,356	32,557	37,804
5 persons	29,515	33,579	36,697	36,924	42,877
6 persons	33,290	37,871	41,389	41,646	48,358
7 or more persons	37,063	42,164	46,080	46,366	53,839
2005					
1 person	14,313	16,283	17,795	17,906	20,791
2 persons	17,818	20,270	22,153	22,290	25,884
3 persons	21,904	24,920	27,234	27,403	31,821
4 persons	26,596	30,257	33,067	33,272	38,635
5 persons	30,164	34,316	37,504	37,735	43,819
6 persons	34,021	38,703	42,298	42,561	49,420
7 or more persons	37,877	43,090	47,093	47,384	55,022
2006					
1 person	14,593	16,603	18,144	18,257	21,199
2 persons	18,168	20,668	22,588	22,728	26,392
3 persons	22,334	25,409	27,769	27,941	32,446
4 persons	27,118	30,851	33,716	33,925	39,393
5 persons	30,756	34,990	38,240	38,476	44,679
6 persons	34,689	39,463	43,128	43,396	50,390
7 or more persons	38,620	43,936	48,017	48,314	56,102

Table 2 (continued)
Low income cut-offs (1992 base) before tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
2007					
1 person	14,914	16,968	18,544	18,659	21,666
2 persons	18,567	21,123	23,084	23,228	26,972
3 persons	22,826	25,968	28,379	28,556	33,159
4 persons	27,714	31,529	34,457	34,671	40,259
5 persons	31,432	35,760	39,081	39,322	45,662
6 persons	35,452	40,331	44,077	44,350	51,498
7 or more persons	39,470	44,903	49,073	49,377	57,336
2008					
1 person	15,262	17,364	18,976	19,094	22,171
2 persons	19,000	21,615	23,623	23,769	27,601
3 persons	23,358	26,573	29,041	29,222	33,933
4 persons	28,361	32,264	35,261	35,480	41,198
5 persons	32,165	36,594	39,992	40,239	46,727
6 persons	36,278	41,272	45,105	45,385	52,699
7 or more persons	40,390	45,950	50,218	50,529	58,673
2009					
1 person	15,302	17,409	19,026	19,144	22,229
2 persons	19,050	21,672	23,685	23,832	27,674
3 persons	23,419	26,643	29,118	29,299	34,022
4 persons	28,435	32,349	35,354	35,573	41,307
5 persons	32,250	36,690	40,097	40,345	46,850
6 persons	36,374	41,380	45,223	45,504	52,838
7 or more persons	40,496	46,071	50,350	50,661	58,827
2010					
1 person	15,583	17,729	19,375	19,496	22,637
2 persons	19,400	22,070	24,120	24,269	28,182
3 persons	23,849	27,132	29,652	29,836	34,646
4 persons	28,957	32,943	36,003	36,226	42,065
5 persons	32,842	37,363	40,833	41,086	47,710
6 persons	37,041	42,140	46,054	46,339	53,808
7 or more persons	41,240	46,916	51,274	51,591	59,907
2011					
1 person	16,038	18,246	19,941	20,065	23,298
2 persons	19,966	22,714	24,824	24,978	29,004
3 persons	24,545	27,924	30,517	30,707	35,657
4 persons	29,802	33,905	37,053	37,283	43,292
5 persons	33,800	38,454	42,025	42,285	49,102
6 persons	38,122	43,370	47,398	47,692	55,378
7 or more persons	42,443	48,285	52,770	53,097	61,656

Table 2 (concluded)
Low income cut-offs (1992 base) before tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
2012					
1 person	16,279	18,520	20,240	20,366	23,647
2 persons	20,266	23,055	25,196	25,353	29,440
3 persons	24,914	28,343	30,976	31,168	36,193
4 persons	30,250	34,414	37,610	37,843	43,942
5 persons	34,308	39,031	42,656	42,920	49,839
6 persons	38,695	44,021	48,109	48,408	56,209
7 or more persons	43,080	49,010	53,562	53,894	62,581
2013					
1 person	16,426	18,688	20,423	20,550	23,861
2 persons	20,449	23,263	25,424	25,582	29,706
3 persons	25,139	28,599	31,256	31,450	36,520
4 persons	30,523	34,725	37,950	38,185	44,340
5 persons	34,618	39,384	43,041	43,307	50,290
6 persons	39,045	44,419	48,544	48,845	56,718
7 or more persons	43,470	49,453	54,047	54,381	63,147
2014					
1 person	16,747	19,053	20,822	20,952	24,328
2 persons	20,849	23,718	25,921	26,082	30,286
3 persons	25,630	29,158	31,866	32,065	37,234
4 persons	31,120	35,403	38,691	38,931	45,206
5 persons	35,294	40,153	43,883	44,154	51,272
6 persons	39,808	45,287	49,493	49,800	57,826
7 or more persons	44,319	50,420	55,103	55,444	64,381

1 Can include some small population centres.
2 Includes population centres with less than 10,000 inhabitants.

Table 3a
Low income measures by income concept, for household size of four persons[1,2], 1976-2011

	Income concept		
	Market income	Before tax	After tax
	Current dollars		
1976	8,492	9,160	7,914
1977	9,290	10,044	8,736
1978	10,162	10,978	9,578
1979	11,408	12,248	10,594
1980	12,746	13,686	11,854
1981	14,144	15,264	13,132
1982	14,994	16,444	14,208
1983	15,188	16,894	14,628
1984	16,360	18,056	15,558
1985	17,438	19,188	16,440
1986	18,714	20,460	17,220
1987	19,750	21,650	18,020
1988	21,332	23,256	19,292
1989	22,798	25,000	20,700
1990	22,840	25,518	21,030
1991	22,512	25,612	21,136
1992	22,574	26,022	21,652
1993	22,408	25,894	21,604
1994	22,728	26,164	21,822
1995	23,348	26,680	22,266
1996	23,502	27,028	22,560
1997	24,390	27,780	23,136
1998	25,548	28,938	24,158
1999	27,062	30,346	25,508
2000	28,566	31,876	26,716
2001	29,338	33,058	28,340
2002	30,154	33,954	29,254
2003	30,978	34,888	30,066
2004	31,968	36,078	31,020
2005	33,216	37,380	32,326
2006	34,232	38,806	33,578
2007	35,906	40,630	35,512
2008	37,736	42,596	37,336
2009	37,300	42,500	37,562
2010	37,920	43,544	38,322
2011	39,682	45,440	39,860

Notes: 1. To convert to other household sizes, divide these values by 2 (the square root of the household size of four persons) and then multiply by the square root of the desired household size.
2. The LIMs were calculated using SCF for 1976 to 1992, a combination of SCF and SLID from 1993 to 1997 and SLID from 1998 to 2011.

Table 3b
Low income measures by income concept, for household size of four persons[1,2], 2012-2013

	Income concept		
	Market income	Before tax	After tax
	Current dollars		
2012	41,624	47,208	41,568
2013	42,402	47,878	41,866

Notes: 1. To convert to other household sizes, divide these values by 2 (the square root of the household size of four persons) and then multiply by the square root of the desired household size.
2. Beginning in 2012, the LIMs were calculated using CIS.

Table 4
Market Basket Measure thresholds (2011-base) for reference family of two adults and two children[1], by MBM region

MBM Region[2]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	current dollars											
Newfoundland and Labrador												
Rural	27,453	27,642	28,371	29,170	30,151	30,763	32,247	33,523	35,153	37,117	38,438	38,835
Less than 30,000	27,941	28,127	28,849	29,642	30,616	31,229	32,720	34,006	35,654	37,638	38,976	39,386
St. John's	26,260	26,742	27,262	28,026	29,455	29,804	31,237	33,260	34,010	35,660	36,724	36,765
Prince Edward Island												
Rural	26,485	26,741	27,516	28,507	29,711	29,981	31,301	32,978	34,163	35,744	37,426	37,893
Less than 30,000	27,180	27,452	28,238	29,237	30,463	30,742	32,065	33,759	34,956	36,544	38,234	38,712
Charlottetown	27,941	28,226	29,018	30,024	31,271	31,562	32,886	32,869	33,716	35,206	36,700	37,041
Nova Scotia												
Rural	27,189	27,559	28,125	29,328	30,344	31,134	32,714	34,058	35,122	37,269	38,668	38,315
Less than 30,000	27,503	27,839	28,364	29,528	30,507	31,298	32,881	34,227	35,293	37,443	38,844	38,493
30,000 - 99,999	25,798	26,157	26,574	27,545	28,780	29,377	30,915	32,817	33,549	35,480	36,436	35,834
Halifax	27,291	27,749	28,372	29,204	30,353	30,901	32,157	34,036	34,575	36,272	37,145	36,852
Cape Breton	25,044	25,386	25,902	26,697	27,848	28,415	29,790	31,636	32,650	33,856	34,323	34,317
New Brunswick												
Rural	27,067	27,645	28,076	28,937	30,084	30,155	31,546	33,210	34,446	36,202	37,819	37,549
Less than 30,000	27,540	28,101	28,513	29,414	30,603	30,678	32,076	33,745	34,988	36,751	38,374	38,109
30,000 - 99,999				28,898	30,076	30,147	31,539	33,202	34,439	36,195	37,813	37,543
Fredericton	26,811	27,372	27,879	28,922	30,307	30,806	32,325	34,159	34,838	36,875	37,901	37,774
Saint John	25,320	25,593	26,121	26,993	28,496	28,504	29,994	31,999	32,694	34,241	35,342	35,110
Moncton	25,771	26,032	26,463	27,291	28,810	29,101	30,554	32,238	32,727	34,342	35,374	34,744
Québec												
Rural	24,300	24,250	24,808	25,796	26,693	27,042	28,700	30,201	30,874	32,693	34,237	34,111
Less than 30,000	24,449	24,382	24,922	25,893	26,773	27,123	28,782	30,283	30,957	32,777	34,323	34,197
30,000 - 99,999	22,681	22,693	23,133	23,959	25,119	25,399	26,981	28,931	29,282	30,908	32,013	31,821
100,000 – 499,999	23,320	23,357	23,890	24,740	25,856	26,167	27,731	29,680	30,053	31,684	32,827	32,658
Québec City	23,907	24,149	24,656	25,442	26,646	26,986	28,508	30,200	30,559	32,101	33,115	33,191
Montréal	23,968	24,322	25,073	25,940	27,221	27,617	29,137	31,010	31,588	33,146	34,247	34,137

Table 4 (concluded)
Market Basket Measure thresholds (2011-base) for reference family of two adults and two children[1], by MBM region

MBM Region[2]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	current dollars											
Ontario												
Rural	26,639	26,973	27,920	29,084	29,894	29,819	31,169	32,308	32,810	34,503	35,330	35,360
Less than 30,000	26,549	26,860	27,780	28,922	29,706	29,631	30,980	32,117	32,618	34,309	35,134	35,161
30,000 - 99,999	24,924	25,140	25,994	27,228	28,176	27,698	28,628	30,055	30,402	31,939	32,471	32,433
100,000 – 499,999	26,447	26,776	27,372	28,124	29,101	29,050	30,455	31,824	32,068	33,657	34,596	34,926
Ottawa	28,878	29,057	29,594	30,472	31,354	31,263	32,595	34,324	35,109	36,886	37,940	38,308
Hamilton/ Burlington	25,914	26,285	26,896	27,592	28,774	28,623	30,475	31,926	32,727	34,011	34,694	35,134
Toronto	30,117	30,508	31,013	31,706	32,789	33,062	34,641	36,135	36,861	38,313	39,254	39,084
Manitoba												
Rural	24,701	25,371	25,877	26,867	27,535	28,259	29,608	31,296	31,450	33,141	34,361	34,112
Less than 30,000	25,880	26,547	27,046	28,031	28,698	29,442	30,821	32,539	32,721	34,439	35,685	35,459
Brandon	23,815	24,636	25,097	25,845	26,778	27,536	28,588	30,687	30,719	32,427	33,280	32,877
Winnipeg	24,928	25,438	26,065	26,810	27,975	28,505	29,807	31,868	32,019	33,614	34,641	34,938
Saskatchewan												
Rural	24,670	25,336	26,049	26,634	27,603	28,311	30,124	32,081	32,538	34,328	35,790	35,745
Less than 30,000	25,480	26,147	26,855	27,439	28,411	29,137	30,996	33,009	33,510	35,330	36,824	36,808
30,000 - 99,999	23,124	23,857	24,597	24,973	26,109	26,721	28,412	30,745	30,997	33,029	34,220	34,264
Saskatoon	25,252	25,749	26,275	26,605	27,822	28,335	30,026	32,506	33,061	34,897	36,307	36,446
Regina	24,606	25,055	25,612	26,036	27,198	27,863	29,506	31,583	31,877	33,667	34,917	35,584
Alberta												
Rural	26,906	27,697	27,985	28,262	29,390	30,658	32,758	34,452	34,744	36,055	37,418	37,631
Less than 30,000	27,902	28,735	29,054	29,360	30,532	31,871	34,050	35,783	36,064	37,374	38,756	39,004
30,000 - 99,999	26,795	27,599	27,833	27,942	29,281	30,533	32,659	34,750	34,862	36,242	37,331	37,634
Edmonton	26,452	27,126	27,578	28,284	29,596	30,335	32,424	34,474	34,079	35,462	36,235	36,230
Calgary	28,104	28,872	29,061	29,803	30,997	32,182	34,091	36,114	35,812	37,145	38,284	38,656
British Columbia												
Rural	28,233	28,117	29,352	29,989	30,651	31,169	32,563	34,002	34,621	36,421	38,282	37,220
Less than 30,000	28,203	28,098	29,344	29,993	30,665	31,183	32,578	34,016	34,636	36,436	38,297	37,235
30,000 - 99,999	26,218	26,263	27,470	27,960	28,907	29,225	30,501	32,242	32,574	34,285	35,761	34,670
100,000 – 499,999	27,947	28,726	29,285	29,842	31,183	31,772	33,178	34,997	35,331	36,922	38,175	38,161
Vancouver	29,532	30,012	30,507	31,142	32,325	32,696	34,380	36,019	36,522	37,663	38,524	38,717

1 To convert to other family sizes, divide these values by 2 (the square root of the reference family size of four persons) and then multiply by the square root of the desired family size. For example, if the MBM threshold for a given region is $27,500 for the reference family of two adults and two children, to convert this threshold to a three-person family, the following calculation is made: ($27,500 ÷ 2) × (square root of 3) ==> $13,750 × 1.732 ==> $23,816
To convert the threshold to a two-person family, the following calculation is made: ($27,500 ÷ 2) × (square root of 2) ==> $13,750× 1.414 ==> $19,445
To convert the threshold to a single-person family, the following calculation is made: ($27,500 ÷ 2) × (square root of 1) ==> $13,750 × 1 ==> $13,750

2 Rural: rural areas located outside a Census Metropolitan Area or Census Agglomeration. Can include some small population centres.
Less than 30,000: Census Agglomeration or population centres less than 10,000 inhabitants.
30,000 - 99,999: Census Agglomeration between 30,000 - 99,999 inhabitants.
100,000 – 499,999: Census Metropolitan Area between 100,000 – 499,999 inhabitants.
Specific city name refers to the population within the CMA or CA.

Annex: Historical low income cut-offs (LICOs) for the base years 1959 (for 1969), 1969, 1978, and 1986

Table A.1
Low- income cut-offs (LICOs), 1959 base, before tax

	All areas (no distinction by community size)				
	Current dollars				
Size of family unit	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 or more persons
1969	1,894	3,157	3,788	4,420	5,051

Note: The 1959-based low- income cut-offs were published only starting with 1969.

Table A.2
Low- income cut-offs (LICOs), 1969 base, before tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
1969					
1 person	1,890	2,174	2,363	2,434	2,599
2 persons	2,741	3,152	3,426	3,529	3,769
3 persons	3,498	4,022	4,372	4,503	4,809
4 persons	4,159	4,783	5,199	5,355	5,719
5 persons	4,650	5,347	5,812	5,986	6,393
6 persons	5,104	5,870	6,380	6,571	7,018
7 or more persons	5,596	6,435	6,995	7,205	7,695

1 Can include some small population centres.
2 Includes population centres with less than 10,000 inhabitants.

Table A.3
Low- income cut-offs (LICOs), 1978 base, before tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
1978					
1 person	4,400	4,900	5,300	5,650	5,950
2 persons	5,750	6,450	6,950	7,450	7,850
3 persons	7,700	8,650	9,300	9,950	10,500
4 persons	8,900	10,000	10,750	11,500	12,100
5 persons	10,350	11,600	12,450	13,350	14,100
6 persons	11,300	12,650	13,600	14,550	15,400
7 or more persons	12,450	13,950	15,000	16,050	16,950

1 Can include some small population centres.
2 Includes population centres with less than 10,000 inhabitants.
Note: After-tax LICOs were never published on a 1959 base, 1969 base, or 1978 base.

Table A.4
Low-income cut-offs (LICOs), 1986 base, before tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
1986					
1 person	8,065	9,266	10,165	10,405	11,847
2 persons	10,933	12,561	13,779	14,105	16,059
3 persons	13,896	15,966	17,514	17,928	20,412
4 persons	15,999	18,382	20,164	20,641	23,501
5 persons	17,480	20,084	22,031	22,552	25,677
6 persons	18,974	21,800	23,914	24,479	27,871
7 or more persons	20,408	23,448	25,721	26,329	29,977

1 Can include some small population centres.
2 Includes population centres with less than 10,000 inhabitants.

Table A.5
Low-income cut-offs (LICOs), 1986 base, after tax

	Community size				
		Census Agglomeration (CA)		Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)	
	Rural areas outside CMA or CA[1]	Less than 30,000 inhabitants[2]	Between 30,000 and 99,999 inhabitants	Between 100,000 and 499,999 inhabitants	500,000 inhabitants or more
Size of family unit	Current dollars				
1986					
1 person	6,414	7,532	8,381	8,607	10,045
2 persons	8,696	10,212	11,364	11,669	13,620
3 persons	11,258	13,220	14,711	15,107	17,632
4 persons	13,242	15,550	17,304	17,769	20,739
5 persons	14,407	16,919	18,826	19,333	22,565
6 persons	15,399	18,083	20,123	20,664	24,118
7 or more persons	16,372	19,226	21,394	21,969	25,641

1 Can include some small population centres.
2 Includes population centres with less than 10,000 inhabitants.

Annual consumer price index (CPI) for Canada, all items (2002=100)

1960	15.5	1980	44.0	2000	95.4
1961	15.7	1981	49.5	2001	97.8
1962	15.9	1982	54.9	**2002**	**100.0**
1963	16.1	1983	58.1	2003	102.8
1964	16.4	1984	60.6	2004	104.7
1965	16.8	1985	63.0	2005	107.0
1966	17.5	1986	65.6	2006	109.1
1967	18.1	1987	68.5	2007	111.5
1968	18.8	1988	71.2	2008	114.1
1969	19.7	1989	74.8	2009	114.4
1970	20.3	1990	78.4	2010	116.5
1971	20.9	1991	82.8	2011	119.9
1972	21.9	1992	84.0	2012	121.7
1973	23.6	1993	85.6	2013	122.8
1974	26.2	1994	85.7	2014	125.2
1975	29.0	1995	87.6		
1976	31.1	1996	88.9		
1977	33.6	1997	90.4		
1978	36.6	1998	91.3		
1979	40.0	1999	92.9		

Source: CANSIM Table 326-0021

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